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News Release

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City of Durham Announces Delays and Closings Due to Weather

Waste Disposal & Recycling Center and Parks & Recreation Closed; DATA Operating on Reduced Schedule; Motorists Urged to Stay Off the Roads

DURHAM, N.C. – The City of Durham is delaying the opening of City Hall to the public until 10 a.m. today.

The City's Solid Waste Management Department has suspended solid waste, recycling, yard waste, and bulky items collections today. The department will make up Thursday's collection on Friday, weather permitting.

The department's contractor at the City's Waste Disposal and Recycling Center (Transfer Station) has also suspended hauling operations today due to the road conditions in Durham as well as en route to the Sampson County landfill that accepts the City's daily collections. Therefore, the City's Waste Disposal and Recycling Center (Transfer Station) will also be closed today. In addition, the secondary road conditions in many of the residential areas of the city remain covered with snow and ice, making conditions hazardous for the collection trucks.

Thursday's collection customers should leave their carts on the curb today for collection on Friday. If the city's streets remain hazardous on Friday then collections will take place on Saturday, weather and road conditions permitting. During winter weather, all customers should make sure their garbage is placed in plastic bags inside the carts to prevent freezing to the inside of the carts. All customers should still place their carts at the curb by 7 a.m. on their normal collection day. Any questions or concerns regarding solid waste collection schedule changes should be directed to Durham One Call at (919) 560-1200.

Durham Parks and Recreation (DPR) has closed all facilities, offices, and pools to the public and all after-school programs are canceled in addition to all programs and rentals at all recreation facilities. The Community Family Life and Recreation Center at Lyon Park is also closed.

The City's Public Works Department worked overnight to reduce hazards on city streets. According to Public Works Director Marvin Williams, his staff are making progress on the city's primary roads and a few secondary roads, but most secondary roads remain hazardous and will be plowed and treated throughout the day. The department is currently operating in 12-hour shifts and working on 26 routes, which they will continue to do so until staff gets all primary and secondary roads, bridges, and emergency routes cleared. City crews are also dealing with many abandoned cars in the roadway, which is making plowing operations difficult.

"We really want our residents to stay home and off the roads. We cannot effectively get through our routes when other motorists are sliding on ice and getting into accidents," Williams said. "The fewer cars we have to deal with, the faster we can plow off the snow and ice."

The department is also coordinating with the local NCDOT maintenance office to ensure that the state-maintained roads within the city are passable as well throughout this weather event.

Residents and property owners are reminded that they are responsible for snow and ice removal in their driveways, apartment access roads, parking lots, and sidewalks. The clearing of private streets is the responsibility of the homeowners within that subdivision. In order to facilitate snow and ice removal on city streets, residents can help by adhering to the following tips:

- Stay off the roads if at all possible.
- Drive very slowly and carefully. If involved in a property damage wreck, motorists should pull off the road and completely out of the travel lane to prevent additional accidents and remember that it may take some additional time for an officer to respond to the accident due to icy road conditions.
- If at all possible, park cars off the street or highway to let salt-and-sand spreaders pass with ease.
- Treat intersections with malfunctioning traffic lights as four-way stops and proceed with caution.

Durham Area Transit Authority (DATA) will tentatively start their routes at 9 a.m., but will be on their Sunday/Holiday schedule. It is also very likely that routes will end early due to more winter weather arriving early this afternoon.

Residents are also reminded to be careful of any downed power lines and should report them to Duke Energy Carolinas 1-800-POWERON. To report downed trees on City streets, residents should contact the Durham Emergency Communications Center non-emergency line at (919) 560-4600 unless the downed tree presents an immediate, life-threatening hazard; then they should call 9-1-1.

The Durham Fire Department has issued winter heating safety tips, which can be found at <http://durhamnc.gov/Pages/NNDetails.aspx?detailId=670>. Residents are asked to use alternative heating sources carefully in the event of a power outage. For more information on emergency preparedness, visit the Durham County Emergency Management's website at <http://dconc.gov/index.aspx?page=153>.

Residents are encouraged to like the City's Facebook page at <http://Facebook.com/CityofDurhamNC> and follow the City's Twitter feed at <http://Twitter.com/CityofDurhamNC> to get up-to-date information about roads, programs, services, trash collection, and more.

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